

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 02820 01 OF 02 151610Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----151613Z 049876 /53

O R 151601Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5636
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02820

EXDIS

DEPT. PLEASE PASS INFO TO SECDEF WASHDC.

SECDEF TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AWACS, NATO, OCON, MILI, GW
SUBJECT: NATO AEW -- FRG POSITION

REFS: (A) BONN 02773 DTG 141709Z FEB 77
(B) BONN 02296 DTG 071712Z FEB 77
(C) USNATO 0645 DTG 051407Z FEB 77
(D) USNATO 0761 DTG 111546Z FEB 77
(E) BONN 02651 DTG 111639Z FEB 77

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLEAR UP THE CONFUSION
CONCERNING THE MIXED SIGNALS REGARDING THE FRG'S DESIRE
FOR ADDITIONAL BRIEFINGS AND/OR AN AWACS DEMONSTRATION,
EMBOFF CALLED ON NAVAL CAPTAIN BORGEMEISTER, CHANCELLOR
SCHMIDT'S DEFENSE AIDE (PARA 10, REF A). BORGEMEISTER,
WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE FEBRUARY 2 GERMAN DEFENSE
COUNCIL MEETING ALSO ATTENDED BY FRG NATO AMBASSADOR
PAULS (REFS B AND C), CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THE
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CHANCELLOR HAD SUGGESTED, EVEN INDIRECTLY, A NEED FOR
ADDITIONAL U.S. MILITARY/TECHNICAL INFORMATION ABOUT
AWACS OR HAD ASKED FOR AN AWACS DEMONSTRATION (REF D).
END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO BORGEMEISTER, THE POSITION SCHMIDT HAD
TAKEN AT THE FEBRUARY 2 FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

WAS THAT THE NATO AEW SEEMED TO MEET THE MILITARY NEEDS OF THE FRG, THAT IT HAD GENERAL POLITICAL/MILITARY UTILITY, AND THAT IT WOULD SERVE TO BOLSTER THE ALLIANCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE COSTS WERE SO LARGE THAT THE FRG WOULD HAVE TO UNDERGO A SEARCHING ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE WHETHER AWACS HAD A HIGH ENOUGH PRIORITY TO WARRANT THE CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF OTHER MILITARY EXPENDITURES WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE IDENTIFIED AS FALLING IN THESE CATEGORIES. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED CAPTAIN BORGEMEISTER FOR HIS PERSONAL EVALUATION OF WHEN THIS INTERNAL ANALYSIS MIGHT BE COMPLETED, THE CHANCELLOR'S MILITARY AIDE REPLIED THAT HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE FINISHED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. TO THE COMMENT THAT THIS WOULD CAUSE GREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR THE UK, BORGEMEISTER MERELY ASSENTED AND OFFERED NO FURTHER REMARKS.

2. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THE CHANCELLOR HAD REQUESTED AN AWACS DEMONSTRATION AT THE FEBRUARY 2 FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. BORGEMEISTER REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT AND ADDED THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD HAD NO PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR PAULS WHERE SUCH A REQUEST MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE. EMBOFF THEN ASKED WHETHER THIS REQUEST MIGHT HAVE BEEN AFTER THE FEBRUARY 2 FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. BORGEMEISTER REPLIED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE IT HAD NOT AND THAT HE WOULD BE VERY SUR-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02820

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PRISED IF SUCH WERE THE CASE. IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION AFTER THEIR MEETING, BORGEMEISTER TOLD EMBOFF

THAT HE BELIEVED HE HAD DISCOVERED THE SOURCE OF THE
CONFUSION OVER THE ALLEGED REQUEST FOR A DEMONSTRATION
FLIGHT (REF D). CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WAS IN FACT INTER-
ESTED IN SEEING HOW AIR FORCE ONE SERVED THE NEEDS OF
THE U.S. PRESIDENT WHEN HE WAS AWAY FROM HIS CAPITAL
BECAUSE THE CHANCELLOR THOUGHT THAT SUCH AN ACQUISITION
WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. (EMBASSY
COMMENT: BORGEMEISTER SAID AIR FORCE ONE BUT THE
CHANCELLOR'S INTEREST MIGHT IN FACT BE IN THE PRESIDENT'S
COMMAND AND CONTROL AIRCRAFT). BORGEMEISTER REPEATED
THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD AT NO TIME INDICATED AN INTEREST
IN SEEING A DEMONSTRATION OF AWACS.

3. DURING THE CONVERSATION, CAPTAIN BORGEMEISTER
STRONGLY SUPPORTED MINISTER LEBER'S ADVICE THAT U.S.
PRESSURE CONCERNING AWACS RISKED BECOMING COUNTER-
PRODUCTIVE (REF E). THE CHANCELLOR'S MILITARY AIDE
SAID THAT HIS IMPRESSION OF THE CHANCELLOR'S ATTITUDE
TOWARDS AWACS WAS THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT REQUIRED MORE
TIME TO ESTABLISH A POSITION ON NATO AEW, THAT NO
ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL OR OTHER ADVICE WAS REQUIRED FROM
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THE U.S., AND THAT PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY DECISION WOULD
BE ANYTHING BUT HELPFUL. HE SUMMARIZED BY SAYING THAT
HE FELT THAT MINISTER LEBER'S POSITION WAS IN COMPLETE
HARMONY WITH THAT OF THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR.
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